

WARRINGTON TOWN BOARD

AGENDA

20 December 2024 – 10am – 12pm

Item	Agenda Item	Lead	Update Enclosed/Verbal
1.0	Welcome and apologies	Steve Coffey – Chair	Verbal
2.0	Minutes of meeting held on 18.10.24 & Matters arising	Steve Coffey – Chair	Enclosed
3.0	Declarations of interest	Steve Coffey – Chair	Verbal
4.0	Towns Fund programme update	Kerry Hall	Enclosed & Verbal
5.0	Towns Fund project updates - <i>Active Projects (In Delivery):</i> <i>Digital Enterprise Hub</i> <i>Sustainable Travel Programme</i> <i>Pyramid Remastered Advanced</i>	Josh Downes Alan Dickin Eleanor Blackburn	Enclosed & Verbal
6.0	Town Fund Project Adjustment Requests: <i>Health & Social Care Academy</i> <i>Sustainable Travel Programme</i>	Kerry Hall Alan Dickin	Presentation
7.0	UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme update	Kerry Hall	Enclosed & Verbal
8.0	Levelling Up Fund update <i>Warrington North – Reconnecting the Settlements</i>	Alan Dickin	Enclosed & Verbal
9.0	Any other business	Steve Coffey - Chair	Verbal
10.0	Next meeting 21 February 2025 10am-12pm		

WARRINGTON TOWN BOARD

Minutes of meeting held on 18 October 2024

ATTENDEES		APOLOGIES
Steve Coffey (Chair)	Torus	Steven Broomhead
Nichola Newton	Warrington & Vale Royal College	Charlotte Nichols MP
Lucy Gardner	Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospital	Sarah Hall MP
Steve Park	Warrington Borough Council	Cllr Laura Watson
Eleanor Blackburn	Warrington Borough Council	Martin Wood
Alan Dickin	Warrington Borough Council	Stephen Hunter
Elliot Grimshaw	Cities & Local Growth Unit	Dave Thompson
Malcolm Jackson	Langtree	John Laverick
Damian Richards-Clarke	Warrington Borough Council	Christian Persoglio
Stephen Fitzsimons	Warrington Chamber of Commerce	Laurence Pullan
Cllr Jean Flaherty	Warrington Borough Council	David Boyer
Cllr Nathan Sudworth	Warrington Borough Council	Georgia Millership
Heather Standidge	Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington	Nigel Schofield
Kerry Hall	Warrington Borough Council	Josh Downs

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
1.0	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair welcomed all attendees. 	
2.0	Minutes of meeting held on 16 August 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable travel – The Wayfinding map currently installed to boards is in Appendix A. 	
3.0	Declarations of interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No declarations of interest were noted for this agenda. 	
4.0	Towns Fund Governance & Transparency Following receipt of the Towns Fund assurance review, the Programme Manager has conducted a review, update on the findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Terms of Reference, updated earlier in the year, remain fit for purpose. The Register of Gifts and Hospitality has been updated to include project official openings. Declarations of Interest are now a standing agenda item at each meeting. With recent changes and additions to membership, it is recommended as good practice for all members to complete the interest’s template. Profiles of Town Board members have been reviewed and updated; these are now hosted on the webpage. Meeting minutes are consistently posted on the webpage, with clear labels to indicate draft or approved status. The Programme Update is now included with the meeting agenda on the website. ACTIONS: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Town Board members and officers to inform Programme Manager of gifts and hospitality. Programme Manager to distribute register of interests for Town Board members to complete. 	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>

<p>4.0</p>	<p>Towns Fund Programme Update Kerry Hall reported on the Towns Fund Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme continues to make steady progress towards its project deliverables. • Projects completed four: the Bus Depot, Health and Wellbeing Academy, Living Well Hub, and the Construction and Civil Engineering Academy have completed a Stage 1 Evaluation as part of the two-stage project closure process. • Grant payments continue to be used/claimed in line with projects progress. Some projects outstanding retention others in delivery – there is £2M currently in payment process. • Efforts are underway to enhance positive news and PR coverage for both projects in delivery and those completed, with a focus on highlighting their long-term impact and legacy. The Living Well Hub has been identified as a case study. • Monitoring & Evaluation Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Performance monitoring for the period 1 March 2024 to 30 September 2024 underway. ○ Town Board members will be sent the spreadsheet to review w/c 4 November. ○ Final sign-off and upload to the portal w/c 11 November. ○ All projects regardless of status will complete performance monitoring on a 6 monthly basis. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. 	
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Town Deal Project updates -</p> <p>Digital Enterprise Hub Update from Malcolm Jackson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project remains on programme and budget with completion scheduled May 25. • Roofing works 85% complete and toilet and showers at first fix; targeting October for completion. Roof works delayed by 3 weeks due to inclement weather. • Cost on budget. Tenders for next phase of works on cost target. • Extensive liaison with existing tenants and neighbouring church. • Continuing to work on Branding. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. <p>Sustainable Travel Update from Alan Dickin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sankey Street gateway scheme planned public consultation events Saturday 23 and Thursday 21 November in Golden Square. Also targeting following up with residents in local community. Group discussed importance of connectivity to support event programme. • New electric bus fleet. 25 electric buses now in operation with further 80 put into service before the end of the calendar year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The fleet is available for event support to promote the bus service; one bus was recently showcased at the Warrington Business Conference. ○ See Appendix B for images documenting the clean bus journey. • Development work on the 49 Wilderspool Causeway corridor continues, with some revised proposals anticipated for presentation at a future date. • Accessibility Improvements – Phase 2 is now being coordinated with the Pyramid team. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress report accepted. <p>Pyramid Remastered Update from Eleanor Blackburn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction work began on-site on 19 September. Although the contractor experienced a slow start due to finalizing design elements and subcontractor arrangements, the project remains broadly on schedule. • Culture Warrington staff are working across various locations, including the museum and hot desks at Times Square. • A temporary pop-up venue is being set up in Golden Square, with planning approval and building control processes underway. • A key risk has been identified with potential constraints due to nature of building as construction progresses. The team is closely monitoring and managing any issues uncovered on-site through change control procedures. • Progress report accepted. <p>Completed Projects Updates</p> <p>Construction & Civil Engineering Academy Update from Nichola Newton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official opening on 2 December. Invitations due to be distributed imminently, drafting PR and minister has been invited. • The academy is engaged with businesses across different sectors including construction, nuclear, property management. <p>Health & Social Care Academy Update from Nichola Newton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suite of clinical training received national recognition from ministers and Ofsted consultant described the provision as outstanding. <p>Living Well Hub: Update from Lucy Gardner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A quarterly report is being produced for the hub reporting on usage, programme of activities, positive feedback. Option to provide this at future meeting or if matters of confidentiality, then at Programme Board level. • Lucy presented alongside NHS and NHS Confederation at the Health City Design Conference 2024, with a presentation titled “Realising health on the high street”, which mentioned the development and successes of the Warrington Living Well Hub. • The group recognised the importance of collaborative efforts to ensure that all community sectors are made aware and kept informed about the Hub and the range of services it provides. <p>ACTION:</p> <p>3. Verify whether the Living Well Hub quarterly report is classified as open or confidential.</p>	LG
6.0	<p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update Eleanor Blackburn updated on status and key highlights of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 live projects across the investment priorities of Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business, and People and Skills. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme commitments/expenditures slightly over c.£200k although some projects will underspend therefore still accepting project proposals prior to end of March. • The group discussed they opportunity for new, fast-tracked proposals that can align with procurement and programme timelines. • Output and outcome delivery under all investment priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ People and Skills exceeding targets. ○ Progress is slower for Supporting Local Businesses due to contract delivery periods beginning later in the financial year. • Significant delivery underway, with progress in environmental initiatives and support for Active Travel. • Progress report accepted; no issues raised. 	
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Levelling Up Fund – Warrington North Reconnecting the Settlements: Alan Dickin provided an interim update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the project remains on hold. • Further information and potential budget updates are anticipated by the end of October in line with the Autumn Budget 2024. 	
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Next Meeting Currently scheduled for 20 December 2024, from 10am to 1pm. The date will be reviewed based on announcements at the Autumn Budget and timing considerations around the Christmas period.</p>	

Our Clean Buses Journey in Warrington

Warrington Borough Council and Warrington's Own Buses



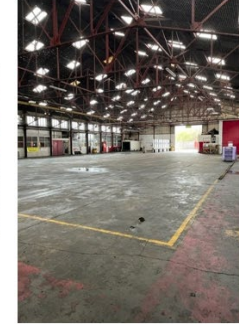
Town Deal Board - 18 October 2024



Now:



Before:



First Double decker and shorter 9m bus just arrived...



**WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL
PROGRAMME MANAGERS REPORT**

MARKING	General
DATE OF REPORT	December 2024

<p>PART 1 – SUMMARY</p> <p>Project Status The programme continues to advance positively towards meeting project goals. As of Q3, four project are complete with the most recent the Construction and Civil Engineering Academy hosting its official opening on 2 December. The completed projects have undergone the Stage 1 Evaluation, whilst project deliverable have been met, the process of claiming grant funding continues along with reporting on benefits realisation.</p> <p>The remaining three projects in delivery, all are on track to be completed within the programme's scheduled timescales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Enterprise Hub: the ground floor WC improvements are complete with roof snagging due early January. Tenant liaison activity proactive. Due to the inclement weather the project completion is delayed to June 2025. Project expenditure on budget. • Pyramid Remastered: Construction works are progressing; however, additional challenges have been identified within the existing building structure now that the construction phase has commenced, leading to increased pressure on the project budget. Despite these challenges, the project remains on track for completion by December 2025, with fit-out activities scheduled to follow. • Sustainable Travel: The portfolio includes a combination of completed elements, ongoing delivery, and projects still in the design phase, and consultation/s live with a requirement to changed the scope of a project reflecting its diverse and phased approach to implementation. Overall, the project is on budget and working to programme. <p>Financial The council has received 91% of the Towns Fund grant, with the remaining 9% to be disbursed as projects in delivery achieve their milestones. While a portion of the received funding has yet to be utilised, the full £22M grant allocation remains fully committed. Furthermore, the programme is benefiting from an additional £2.5M investment from the private sector, underscoring strong external support and collaboration.</p> <p>Monitoring & Evaluation Framework The performance monitoring data for the period 1 March 2024 to 30 September 2024 was submitted on schedule. To date, a minor query has been raised regarding the grant usage for the Pyramid Remastered project, which is currently behind the forecast. This variance is attributed to delays in mobilising subcontractors by the main construction contractor.</p> <p>Project Adjustment Request Following the Programme Board's action to initiate Project Adjustment Requests (PAR) for two projects—Sustainable Travel and the Health and Wellbeing Academy—progress is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Travel: The PAR reflects a change in project scope without affecting the outputs, funding, or Benefit-Cost Ratio. As such, this adjustment can proceed under delegated authority from the Town Board – separate agenda item. • Health and Wellbeing Academy: The PAR involves a variance in outputs that exceeds the delegation parameters, requiring a decision from the Towns Fund team. <p>Both requests will require written support from the local MP to advance.</p>
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PART 2 – PROJECT STATUS UPDATES				
Table 1 has been updated to reflect the current status of projects.				
PROJECT NAME	DELIVERY STAGE	DELIVERY RISK	SPEND RISK	OVERALL RISK
Living Well Hub	Completed			
Health & Social Care Academy	Completed			
Bus Fleet Depot	Completed			

**WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL
PROGRAMME MANAGERS REPORT**

Construction & Civil Engineering Academy	Completed			
Sustainable Travel	Project Delivery	Revised programme long delays 3-6 month. Reprogramming to fit with public consultation periods. Outputs still deliverable .	Variance between 30% & 50%. Monitoring and adjusting budget across the portfolio.	Some risks medium impact. Mitigating via revision in programming and budget across the portfolio.
Pyramid Remastered	Project Delivery	Minor issues however project on track.	Construction works variance up to 5%	Significant risks for both cost and project timescales. Change control being applied to mitigate against risks.
Digital Enterprise Hub	Project Delivery	Minor issues however project on track.	Within budget.	Low – reporting 3 weeks delay and budget on track.

PART 3 – PROGRAMME RISKS & CHALLENGES

The programme remains in a stable phase, with all project deliverables progressing in alignment with the overall schedule. As part of the performance monitoring process, a comprehensive risk analysis has been conducted for each project in delivery, as well as at the programme level.

Key Risks Identified:

1. Environmental or Economic Shocks: Projects involving external works have faced delays due to adverse weather conditions.
2. Rising Costs: Unforeseen construction challenges have led to increased pressure on budgets.
3. Supply Chain Disruptions: Delays in securing materials and skilled labour continue to pose risks to project schedules.

PART 4 – FINANCIAL

4.1 Programme Budget

TYPE	VALUE
Town Deal Capital	£ 21,219,500.00
Town Deal Revenue	£ 880,500.00
Total	£ 22,100,000.00

4.2 Allocation & Utilisation

The council has received 91% (£20.2M) of the Towns Fund grant, comprising £19.4M capital and £814K revenue. The remaining 9% of the grant will be disbursed upon achieving key project milestones. It is important to note that any delays in project delivery may impact the timing of grant usage and claims.

Table 2 highlights that 66% of the total Towns Fund grant has been utilised or claimed to date. This marks significant progress, particularly for the Digital Enterprise Hub, which has increased from 46% in the October update, reflecting steady advancements in the project. Similarly, there has been notable progress in the other projects currently in delivery, including Pyramid Remastered and Sustainable Travel.

Completed projects, such as the Health & Wellbeing Hub and the Advanced Construction & Civil Engineering Academy, are showing less than 100% grant usage due to the retention period. Additionally, the operational revenue for the Hub is profiled for future usage, which will be claimed as it is utilised.

**WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL
PROGRAMME MANAGERS REPORT**

Table 2

Project	Previous Years Spend	2024/25 Capital Spend	Total Revenue Spend	SAP Town Fund Usage/Claimed	Town Fund Grant Award	% Used
Health & Social Care Academy	£ 744,767.16			£ 726,600.00	£ 726,600.00	100.00%
Health & Wellbeing Hub	£ 2,442,979.57	£ 50,000.00	£ 387,950.00	£ 2,880,929.57	£ 3,090,250.00	93.23%
Digital Enterprise Hub	£ 375,306.10	£ 2,434,471.55		£ 2,809,777.65	£ 2,872,200.00	97.83%
Pyramid remastered	£ 477,797.41	£ 550,764.57		£ 1,028,561.98	£ 4,947,650.00	20.79%
Advanced Construction & Civil Engineering Academy	£ 2,231,698.99	£ 1,586,228.23		£ 3,784,958.35	£ 3,871,000.00	97.78%
Programme Management	£ 93,488.75	£ -		£ 93,488.75	£ 255,000.00	36.66%
Bus Depot	£ 812,000.00	£ -		£ 812,000.00	£ 812,000.00	100.00%
Sustainable Travel	£ 2,286,922.53	£ 331,062.84	£ 20,000.00	£ 2,637,985.37	£ 5,525,000.00	47.75%
				£ 14,774,301.67	£ 22,099,700.00	66.85%

PART 5 - PROGRAMME MILESTONES

Progress towards milestones/milestones delivered Q3:

- Construction & Civil Engineering Academy – Project complete, facility open for education delivery.
- Pyramid Remastered – Site handover to main contractor, refurbishment works commenced 19 September 2024.
- Sustainable Travel – Internal consultation periods live.

The next significant milestones will be the completion of the Digital Enterprise Hub Q1 FY25/26.

PART 6 – PROGRAMME BENEFITS

Reporting on benefit realisation is a dynamic process, with outputs being accumulative and tracked over time as part of the programme's performance monitoring. Key highlights include:

- Health & Wellbeing Hub
 - Total number of hub users - 5.9K
 - No. of full-time eqv. permanent jobs created through the project - 2
- Sustainable Travel
 - No. of full-time eqv. permanent jobs created through the project – 4
 - Amount of new retail, leisure or food & beverage space created – 249m²
 - No. of users using the cycle hub per month - 711
- Pyramid Remastered:
 - No. of temporary FT job supported – 66 (construction)
- Health & Social Care Academy:
 - No. of learners gaining certificated, graduating or completing courses at new or improved training or education facilities/attending new courses – 1208
 - No. of learners enrolled at improved education/training facilities – 1278
 - No. of schools engaged - 50
- Digital Enterprise Hub:
 - No. of temporary FT job supported – 66 (construction)
- Bus Depot
 - Site cleared - 1
- Construction & Civil Engineering Academy:
 - No. of learners gaining certificated, graduating or completing courses at new or improved training or education facilities/attending new courses – 1236
 - No. of learners enrolled at improved education/training facilities – 1236
 - No. of schools & colleges engaged - 151

**WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL
PROGRAMME MANAGERS REPORT****PART 7 – STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT & MARCOMS**

Q3 Highlights:

Warrington & Vale Royal College celebrated the official launch of its Construction & Civil Engineering Academy
[Warrington & Vale Royal College celebrates the official launch of its Construction & Civil Engineering Academy | Warrington & Vale Royal College](#)
[New Construction & Engineering Academy Opens in Warrington](#)
[College celebrates official launch of Construction & Civil Engineering Academy - Warrington Worldwide](#)

There has been continued promotion of the complete projects/elements to drive engagement and maximise their benefits:
Warrington Living Well Hub [Living Well Hub Warrington | Warrington | Facebook](#)
Health & Social Care Academy [Health & Social Care Academy | Warrington & Vale Royal College](#)
Sustainable Travel [Warrington Cycle Hub](#)

Q4 Plans:

- Messaging around Pyramid Remastered and the opening of the pop-up performance space.
- The opening of the Digital Enterprise Hub in Q1 FY25/26.

PART 8 – CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the programme is progressing steadily towards its objectives, with a 66% of the Towns Fund grant already utilised. Completed projects, such as the Health & Wellbeing Hub and the Advanced Construction & Civil Engineering Academy, are nearing full grant utilisation, with the remaining funds tied to retention periods. The Digital Enterprise Hub, Pyramid Remastered, and Sustainable Travel projects are advancing well, with each facing challenges, including weather delays and unforeseen construction issues, which are being actively managed.

Financially, the majority of the Towns Fund has been received, and the remaining funds will be drawn as projects meet key milestones. The programme's risk management processes remain robust, with mitigation strategies in place to address emerging challenges. Overall, the programme is on track to meet its goals, with continued monitoring and adaptation to ensure successful completion within the planned timelines.

WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL – MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS GUIDANCE TOP SHEET WILL BE REMOVED PRIOR TO DISTRIBUTION TO PROGRAMME AND TOWN BOARD.

PART 1 - PROJECT			
PROJECT	Digital Enterprise Hub	DATE OF UPDATE	04/12/2024
PROJECT DELIVERY STAGE	Project Delivery		
PROJECT STATUS	In Development - delayed	FORECAST PROJECT COMPLETION	31/06/2025

PART 2 – PROJECT PROGRESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contractor throughout the roof works has faced challenging weather conditions which has put strain on the wider programme. This has impacted the completion of the project, and currently reporting a 2-3 week delay to the end of June. The contractor has completed the GF wc’s and shower packages, with the roof snagging and completion due for completion in early January. The project, despite being a refurbishment on a challenging building, is remaining on budget following the return of the updated Phase 3 tender works. The project team continues its tenant and stakeholder liaison. The project team held a Q&A lunch event with tenants in November which was well received.

PART 3 – PROJECT RISKS
Project Managers must return the current Issues Log and Risk Register with the update.

The status of the project is on target with the Digital Suite having completed and the roof and WC package now being on site and under construction. The weather has been a consistent concern to the progress of the roof and has caused a 3 week of delay, however the contractor is continuing to act to mitigate this where possible. Overall, the project delivery remains within the programme timescale and in project budget.

Minor issues however project on track	Yes	Contractor reporting a couple of week delay to the programme and is now reporting a June 2025 completion.
SPEND RISK AGAINST PROFILE	HAS THIS CHANGED SINCE LAST REPORTED?	COMMENTARY
Within budget	No	Cost are currently tracking budget.
RISK	HAS THIS CHANGED SINCE LAST REPORTED?	COMMENTARY
Low impact & likelihood	No	The Digital Hub is only reporting a couple of week delay, despite major challenges and is currently on track in terms budget, with designs now confirmed for the wider works packages.

Commentary:

WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL – MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

PART 4 – FINANCIAL

4.1 Project Budget

FUNDING	VALUE	VALUE OF TD FUNDS CLAIMED TO DATE	DATE OF LAST CLAIM	REMAINING TD FUNDS TO BE CLAIMED
Town Deal Capital	£ 2,872,200.00	£ 2,809,778.00	28/10/2024	£ 62,422.00
Town Deal Revenue				£ -
Private Sector Capital	£ 2,383,800.00	£ 2,809,778.00		£ 62,422.00
Private Sector Revenue				
Other				
Total	£5,256,000.00			

4.2 Town Deal Claim Forecast

TYPE	TD FORECAST CLAIMS					TOTAL
	Oct-Mar 2023/24	Apr-Sept 2024/25	Oct-Mar 2024/25	Apr-Sept 2025/26	Oct-Mar 2025/26	
Town Deal Capital	£ -	£ 1,580,204.95	£ 916,688.95		£ 62,422.35	£ 2,559,316.25
Town Deal Revenue						£ -
Total	£ -	£ 1,580,204.95	£ 916,688.95	£ -	£ 62,422.35	£ 2,559,316.25

Commentary: The full balance of the grant has now been claimed with a retention held for 12 months.

PART 5 – MILESTONES

Project Managers must return the current project plan/schedule with the update.

MILESTONE	AGREEMENT DATE	REPORTING FREQUENCY	STATUS	STATUS CHANGED SINCE LAST REPORTED?	REVISED DATE OF MILESTONE
Monitoring & Evaluation Reports	Jun-22	every 6 m until 3 years after completion	Ongoing	No	
Design	Oct-Mar 23	monthly	Delayed	No	Sep 23 - Mar 24
Statutory Approvals	Feb-Jun 23	monthly	Delayed	No	Jan-24
Contractor Procurement	Jul-Dec 23	Monthly	Delayed	No	Feb 24 - May 24
Construction	Jan-Dec 24	Monthly	Delayed	No	Jun 24 - June 25
Opening	Dec-24	Monthly	Delayed	No	Jun-25
Retention Payment	Dec-25	Confirmation on payment	Delayed	No	Mar-26

Commentary:

WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL – MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

There is only a minor delay to the programme, resulting in a completion in June rather than May as previously reported.

PART 6 – BENEFITS

The following table gives progress against the targets for the project:

Output	Target	Actual to 04.12.2024	Progress Against Target	Action / Comment
Number of temporary full-time jobs supported during implementation of the project	45	66	146.67%	Refer to separate evidence of time spent by team; equivalent of 8.38 FTE jobs supported
Number of full time equivalent permanent jobs created	113	0	0.00%	These jobs are to be provided by tenants in the building
Number of full-time equivalent jobs safeguarded	0	0		N/A
Additional enterprises with broadband access of at least 30mbs	20	0	0.00%	Baseline before start on site - will be met by any new tenants and hot desking use.
Amount of new public realm (m ²)	100	0	0.00%	827m ² to be provided as part of Phase 3 works. Commences November 2024.
Amount of new or improve car parking spaces	20	0	0.00%	This can be met by improved white lining of existing spaces - evidenced by photographs at time.
Amount of new retail, leisure or food & beverage space (m ²)	30	0	0.00%	Coffee shop in Phase 3 Digital Hub to provide 89m ² of space. Commences November 2024.
Increase in number of enterprises using tenanted space (%)	5	0	0.00%	Based on current c.42 tenants this would result in c.2 additional tenants
Increase in number of start ups using incubation, acceleration and co-working space (%)	5	0	0.00%	The baseline for this is 0 enterprises (as no official hot desks) therefore 1 new hot desk should meet output. (Start-ups = business less than 12 months old). Phase 3 includes proposals for 20 hot-desk spaces.

Commentary:

We have appointed consultants Mickledore to assist in the reporting of the outputs for the scheme who has engaged with the project manager for the scheme to report directly on outputs in tandem with the professional team and the selected contractor. Copies of the current assessment of temporary full-time jobs supported are enclosed with this report.

PART 7 – STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT & MARCOMS

- A tenant event was held at St James with a Q&A with the contractor, and project team moderated by the Projects PR consultant Merrion. The event was well attended with lunch provided and opportunity for tenants to ask direct questions to the project team.

WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL – MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE REPORT



WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL – MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

PART 1 - PROJECT			
PROJECT	Sustainable Travel	DATE OF UPDATE	05/12/2024
PROJECT DELIVERY STAGE	Project Delivery		
PROJECT STATUS	In Development - delayed	FORECAST PROJECT COMPLETION	31/03/2026

PART 2 – PROJECT PROGRESS

3G Pitch

- Grass pitch levelling has been agreed at a cost of £26,900
- The work to level the pitches will start in Spring, the school are aware and have agreed to the length of time the pitches will be out of action on completion of the works.
- Due to a small underspend, the school and LiveWire team on site have requested a final spend item for the purchase of new goalposts for the grass pitches at a cost of £3k.

Cycle Hub



The Hub has engaged over 700 people since opening. Social media reach has been huge with a reach of over 92,000 and 5,500 website views. The Cycle Hub have also been forging links with and working with local organisations such as Livewire, Warrington Wolves Foundation, Warrington BID, Wellbeing Hub, Walton Lea Partnership, Warrington Youth Zone and various departments in Warrington Borough Council.

- The hub continues to deliver pop up events, bike maintenance courses, bike hire, guided bike rides and offers general information, advice and guidance. Take up of their offer has been excellent and the hub continues to be a great success
- **Cycle Shelters** – Cadent have been on site to divert their services. It is hoped BT will be on site before the end of the year, with planned installation of the shelter in the spring 2025

A49 Wilderspool Causeway corridor improvements

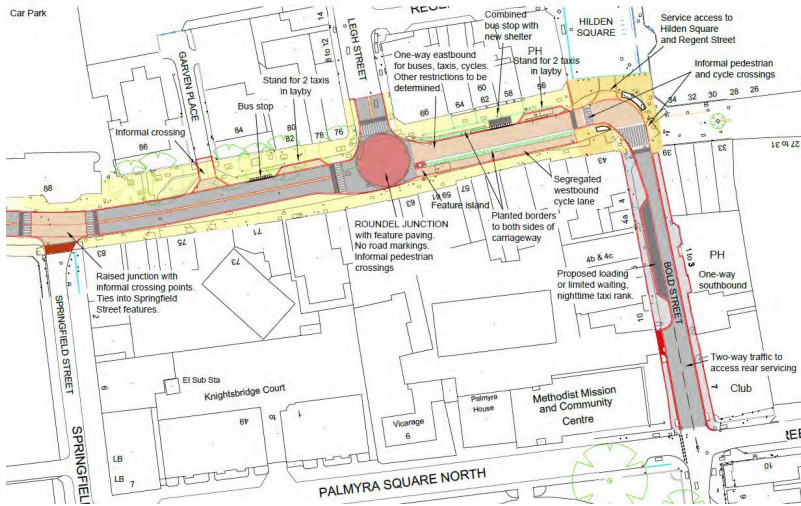
- There has been a redesign to this project with a presentation has been prepared for the Town Board later this month to obtain agreement to proceed with the revised proposals.

Walking and Cycling Improvements

- Public consultation in relation to the Sankey Street improvements commenced on 13 November 2024 and is due to conclude on 13 December 2024.
- The consultation consists of an online survey with detailed information on the Council’s website.
- Roadshows have been held in the Golden Square on 21 & 23 November
- Letter/ leaflet drop has taken place to local businesses and residents.
- The BID, Warrington’s Own Buses and Golden Square have been briefed on the scheme.



WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL – MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE REPORT



Accessibility improvements - Phase 1 is now complete. The second element of the scheme will be delivered through a phased approach to within Winmarleigh Street to avoid an impact on the Town Deal Pyramid works.



WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL – MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

Wayfinding - A phase 1 improvements to existing town centre "blue signs" has seen the map updated with new locations including the Cycle Hub and Health and Wellbeing hub

Phase 2 has been aligned with the wider Town Centre Strategy group which is reviewing all assets and street furniture in the town centre. An external specialist has recently completed an audit of all directional signs in the town centre as well as identifying potential new sign locations. A meeting took place with the Town Centre strategy group in October and subsequently with elected members. A presentation was given to the Supporting Local Economy Policy committee in November who were all supportive of the findings, proposed designs and recommendations.

The next steps for the project is to develop a specification and undertake a procurement exercise.



Locations

Total of 28 signs

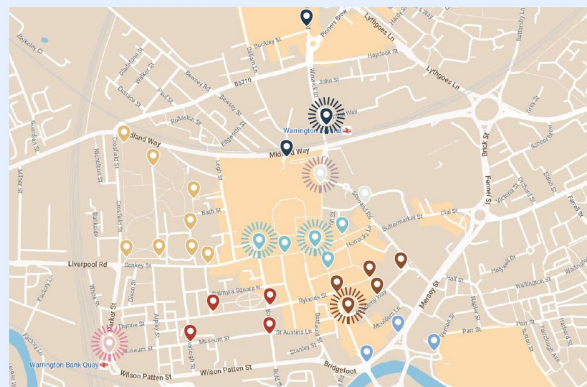


6 Totem, detailed signs, provided at key arrival + orientation points

- Bank Quay station
- Central station
- Bus interchange
- Guardians (skittles)
- Sankey Street
- Time Square multi-storey

22 Fingerpost signs

Various locations to support users journeys within and beyond the town centre
+3 Additional Signs in Bridgefoot for discussion



Green Trail

Bewsey Road

- Footway improvements and bi-directional cycle track on Bewsey Road & junction upgrade at Froghall Lane (semi-Cyclops).
- Design progressing.
- Consultation complete.
- Construction programme to be planned

WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL – MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

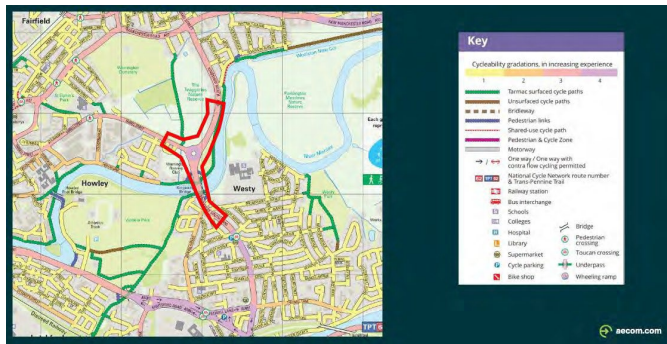
Kingsway Bridge cycleway

The scheme design is well advanced, and 3D visualisations are being prepared for public and stakeholder consultation. Consultation went live on Monday 4th November 2024 and concluded on 2 December 2024

In-person consultation events were held at Westy Community Centre on the following dates:

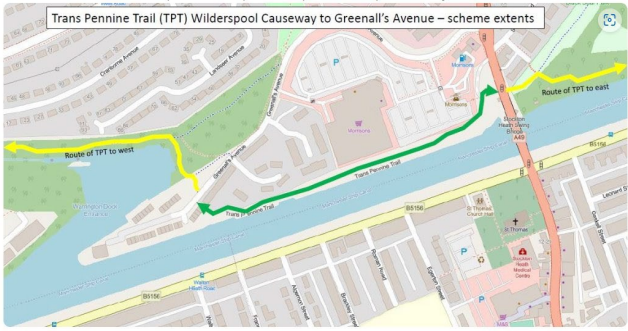
- Monday 11th November 2024, 2pm-7pm
- Saturday 16th November 2024, 10am-1pm

Ongoing work on the scheme will continue including a detailed bridge assessment to understand the bridge’s ability to continue to carry abnormal loads with the new cross section due to the bi-directional cycle facility.



WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL – MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

TPT Greenalls Avenue Improvements – Complete



PART 3 – PROJECT RISKS

RAG		
DELIVERY RISK AGAINST PROFILE	HAS THIS CHANGED SINCE LAST REPORTED?	DETAIL WHY CHANGED
Long delays 3-6 months and outputs still deliverable	<input type="button" value="▼"/>	
SPEND RISK AGAINST PROFILE	HAS THIS CHANGED SINCE LAST REPORTED?	COMMENTARY
Variance between 30% & 50%	No	
RISK	HAS THIS CHANGED SINCE LAST REPORTED?	COMMENTARY
Some risks medium impact but low likelihood & mitigating	No	

Commentary:

Challenges in relation to resource and elections have impacted on programme timeline. All schemes are currently within budget with budget spend expected to be in full.

As schemes progressing – 2024/25 budgets have been realigned

Consultations have been delayed but are now underway with some complete

WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL – MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE REPORT
PART 4 – FINANCIAL
4.1 Project Budget

FUNDING	VALUE	VALUE OF TD FUNDS CLAIMED TO DATE	DATE OF LAST CLAIM	REMAINING TD FUNDS TO BE CLAIMED
Town Deal Capital	£ 5,425,000.00	£ 2,685,702.00		£ 2,739,298.00
Town Deal Revenue	£ 100,000.00	£ 38,000.00		£ 62,000.00
Total Town Deal	£ 5,525,000.00	£ 2,685,702.00		£ 2,801,298.00
Private Sector Capital	£ -			
Private Sector Revenue	£ -			
Other	£ 1,900,000.00			
Total	£ 7,425,000.00			

4.2 Town Deal Claim Forecast

TYPE	Oct-Mar 2024/25	Apr-Sept 2025/26	Oct-Mar 2025/26	TOTAL
Town Deal Capital	£913,099.00	£913,099.00	£913,099.00	£ 2,739,297.00
Town Deal Revenue	£ 62,000.00			£ 62,000.00
Total	£ 975,099.00	£ 913,099.00	£ 913,099.00	£ 2,801,297.00

PART 5 – MILESTONES

Project Managers must return the current project plan/schedule with the update.

DLUHC Funding Confirmation March 21	Mar-23		Complete	No	
WBC Cabinet approval of business case	Oct-21	Monthly	Complete	No	
schemes	Various between Jan22-25	Monthly	Ongoing	No	
Procurement	Various between Feb22-25	Monthly	Ongoing	No	
WBC Cabinet approval of construction contracts	Various between Mar22-25	Monthly	Ongoing	No	
Start of construction	Earliest Mar 22 latest Feb26	Monthly	Delayed	No	
Opening of Cycle Hub	15-Jun-24	Once	On Program	New Milestone	Complete
Consultations	July - December 2024	Quarterly	Ongoing	New Milestone	

Commentary:

Overall programme timeline included in this update, 3G Pitch and TPT Upgrade now complete. All other schemes are in development and design phase, consultations are now taking place across a number of schemes

WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL – MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE REPORT
PART 6 – BENEFITS

# of full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent jobs safeguarded through the project	4	2	50%	No
Amount of public realm improved (sq m of land)	3500	0	0%	No
Total length of new cycle ways (km)	1	0	0%	No
Total length of improved cycle ways (km)	1.3	0.5	38%	To be provided
Amount of existing parks/greenspace/outdoor improved (sq m of space)	1500	3000	200%	To be provided
Amount of new retail, leisure or food & beverage space (sq m of floorspace)	300	300	100%	Yes
# of improved public transport routes	6	0	0%	No
# of new community/sports centres	1	1	100%	Yes
Total length of pedestrian paths improved	2.4	1.25	52%	To be provided
Number of public amenities/facilities created	1	1	1	Yes
Percentage increase in cycle use in intervention areas (3 years post completion)	5	0		No
Number of users using the cycle hub (per month)	200	711		No
Percentage - Cycle parking occupancy	50	0		No
Percentage increase in cycle use along the A49 Wilderspool Causeway	5	0		No
No.Teams using the facility	89	60		No

Commentary:

Evidence being collated as schemes progress

PART 7 – STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT & MARCOMS

Consultations are now underway across a number of schemes, with some concluded and feedback being collated to inform schemes.

WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL – MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

PART 1 - PROJECT			
PROJECT	Pyramid Remastered	DATE OF UPDATE	04/12/2024
PROJECT DELIVERY STAGE	Delivery		
PROJECT STATUS	Construction phase	FORECAST PROJECT COMPLETION	27/03/2026

PART 2 – PROJECT PROGRESS

Construction Works:

- Construction site work ongoing
- Appointment of sub-contractors continuing.
- Design coordination meetings continuing.
- Works currently on programme.
- Dry rot found in one area of works.



Operational Matters:

- Interim arrangements for a ‘pop up’ performance venue are continuing. Subject to Regulatory Permissions early Q4 working toward opening later in the quarter.
- ‘Change of Use’ application has been submitted working towards Development Management committee in January.
- In the meantime, the use of the Parr Hall is being optimised for programming and community uses.

PART 3 – PROJECT RISKS

Project Managers must return the current Issues Log and Risk Register with the update.

Construction Works: Overall risk profile now reflects the project moving to construction phase with primary high level risk areas focused on any unknown existing building issues that may be discovered during the works, achieving the construction programme and completing the works within approved budget.

Progress against programme is being continuously monitored and change control is being rigidly applied to maintain financial and programme discipline.

Culture Warrington have a separate project operational risk register which covers both during and post construction.

RAG		
DELIVERY RISK AGAINST PROFILE	HAS THIS CHANGED SINCE LAST REPORTED?	DETAIL WHY CHANGED
Minor issues however project on track	Yes	Construction Works: design changes
SPEND RISK AGAINST PROFILE	HAS THIS CHANGED SINCE LAST REPORTED?	COMMENTARY
Variance up to 5%	Yes	Construction Works: Risk not quantified financially, cost monitoring during construction phase

WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL – MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

RISK	HAS THIS CHANGED SINCE LAST REPORTED?	COMMENTARY
Significant risks either high impact or likelihood	No	Construction Works: Refurbishment nature of project and timing constraints for the expenditure of external funding mean project carries high risk for both cost and programme. Change control (assessing cost and programme impact) being applied to mitigate as far as possible the risks.

PART 4 - FINANCIAL

4.1 Project Budget

FUNDING	VALUE	VALUE OF TD FUNDS CLAIMED TO DATE	DATE OF LAST CLAIM	REMAINING TD FUNDS TO BE CLAIMED
Town Deal Capital	£ 4,697,650.00	£ 432,856	30 th September 2024	£ 4,264,794.00
Town Deal Revenue	£ 250,000.00			£ 250,000.00
Private Sector Capital		£ 432,856		£ 4,514,794.00
Private Sector Revenue				
Other	£			
Total	£ 4,947,650.00			

4.2 Town Deal Claim Forecast

TYPE	TD FORECAST CLAIMS					TOTAL
	Oct-Mar 2023/24	Apr-Sept 2024/25	Oct-Mar 2024/25	Apr-Sept 2025/26	Oct-Mar 2025/26	
Town Deal Capital	£	£	£ 2,365,312.00	£ 1,398,882.00	£ 500,000.00	£ 4,264,794.00
Town Deal Revenue			£ 100,000.00	£ 150,000.00		£ 250,000.00

Commentary: Culture Warrington are planning to invoice in December for £100k for the programme activity.

PART 5 – MILESTONES

Project Managers must return the current project plan/schedule with the update.

MILESTONE	AGREEMENT DATE	REPORTING FREQUENCY	STATUS	STATUS CHANGED SINCE LAST REPORTED?	REVISED DATE OF MILESTONE
Monitoring & Evaluation Reports	Jun-22	every 6 m			
RIBA Stage 4 technical design	Feb-24	monthly	Complete	YES	
Statutory Approvals/Planning Consent	Mar-24	monthly	Complete	YES	Feb-24
Issue Tender	Feb-24		Completed	YES	Mar-24
Tender Evaluation	Jul 24	Monthly	Completed	YES	Jul 24
Contract Award	Aug-24	Monthly	Completed	YES	Aug-24
Construction start	Sep-24	Monthly	Completed	YES	Sep-24
Construction complete	Dec-25	Monthly	On Programme		
Venue fit out complete		Monthly			
Venue Open		Monthly			



WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL – MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

Commentary: Design/Procurement/Construction 'Agreement' Dates stated are estimated as of date of report

WARRINGTON TOWN DEAL – MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

PART 6 – BENEFITS

OUTPUT	TARGET	ACTUAL AS @M&E TO SEPT 2023	PROGRESS AGAINST TARGET	EVIDENCE PROVIDED WITH THIS UPDATE
# of temporary FT jobs supported	66	4	6%	
# of full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent jobs created through the project	3	0	0%	
# of full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent jobs safeguarded through the project	3	0	0%	
Number of improved cultural facilities	1	0	0%	
Amount of retail, leisure or food & beverage space renovated/improved (sq m)	71	0	0%	
Amount of capacity of new or improved training or education facilities	9000	0	0%	
Percentage increase in arts programming (audiences)	125	0	0%	
Increase in the number of accessible community classes / events (additional, annually)	700	0	0%	
Number of support pathways created to creative arts	150	0	0%	
Percentage increase in footfall/visitors to Pyramid	150	0	0%	
Percentage increase in income to Pyramid	75	0	0%	

Commentary: Construction works: Stage 5 just started, minimal progress on outputs.

PART 7 – STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT & MARCOMS

In planning to support the operational aspect and the 'pop up' in Q4.



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WARRINGTON
Borough Council

Warrington UKSPF Local Partnership

14th Nov 2024

In Attendance:

Eleanor Blackburn (EB)	(Chair) Warrington Borough Council
Dave Thompson (DT)	Warrington Disability Partnership
Naz Ghodrati (NG)	Warrington Voluntary Action
Susan Savage (SS)	Department for Work and Pensions
Tim Smith (TS)	Warrington Borough Council
Kerry Hall (KH)	Warrington Borough Council
Gail Thomas (GT)	Warrington Borough Council
Andrea Morley (AM)	Warrington Business Improvement District (BID)
Lucy Gardner (LG)	Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Vaughan Taylor (VT)	Culture Warrington
Paul Chapman (PC)	Cheshire and Warrington Business Growth Hub

Apologies

Nichola Newton (NN)	Warrington and Vale Royal College
Rebecca Anderson-Moss (RAM)	Warrington and Vale Royal College
Colin Billingsley (CB)	Department for Work and Pensions
Joanne Fagan (JF)	Department for Work and Pensions
Pat Jackson (PJ)	Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington
Stephen Fitzsimons (SF)	Warrington Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mark Rathbone (MR)	Culture Warrington
Martin Wood (MW)	Department of Business and Trade
Georgia Millership (GM)	Department of Business and Trade
Elliot Grimshaw (EG)	Department of Business and Trade

1 Welcome and Introductions

EB welcomed everybody to the meeting and members introduced themselves.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 3rd Oct 2024, were accepted as a true record.

3 The Future of UKSPF / Budget Statement

TS presented an extract from the Budget Statement which said

“The UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be extended for a transition year in 2025-26 at £900 million, ahead of wider local growth funding reforms. We will update the prospectus and allocations for 2025-26 in due course.”

So the good news is that there will be a UKSPF programme in 2025/26. However, the position is vague. We do not know (i) how much we will get, (ii) will the extension continue to allow the current wide range of different activities, (iii) will we be allowed to carry forward any underspend.

On that last point, TS stressed that we should continue to work on the basis that no carry forward will be allowed and that we should plan for a “hard close” at March 2025.

4 UKSPF Position (Oct 2024)

TS presented a spreadsheet showing latest figures to Oct 2024. Output forecasts were looking OK. The two that still had 0 against them (public realm improved and land made wheelchair accessible) would be achieved by the repurposed Town Centre Wardens project and WDP’s Access for All project respectively.

But the spend forecast might not be so favourable. Whilst projects had provided forecasts in Aug/Sep that would make us c. £200k oversubscribed, TS had looked at those where he could see risk of potential slippage and applied a notional 80% to their expected outturns. That could result in c. £700k underspend.

EB confirmed that we will keep monitoring the position regularly, and it would be good to have some “shovel ready” proposals that could be implemented when underspend is confirmed. On the other hand, we would soon need to close to external proposals due to timescales for processes, e.g. procurement, contracting etc.

5 Town Centre Wardens update

TS updated the group on the repurposing of the Town Centre Wardens project. The funding had not been able to be used for its originally intended purpose, but has now allowed for added capacity to the Environmental Crime Team to include three themed projects across the three most complained-about Central 6 wards for illegal waste deposits: Fairfield and Howley, Orford, Bewsey and Whitecross.

The activities are:

- (i) Vans. Hire of vans, a caged van and a panel van, along with additional staff capacity. This will allow the collection of waste that would otherwise be reported to Streets dept. for removal.
- (ii) Alleyways Improvements. Focussed alleyway cleansing, potentially out of hours if needs be. Also to be able to fund a group of householders to paint their alleyway fences or walls, provide planters, soil and some plants, maybe a bench.
- (iii) Bin Policy / Abandoned Bins. An intensive focus on key streets and alleyways to encourage the return of household bins to their land in between emptying and ensuring no sidewaste and general compliance with the bin policy. <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/binpolicy>

TS reminded the group that the original intention of the Town Centre Wardens project had not just been to deal with anti-social behaviour, but also to contribute towards the targets for

- amount of public realm or improved
- number of neighbourhood improvements undertaken

That would now be achieved through this proposed activity.

Whilst the group supported the nature of the new work proposed, LG pointed out that the refocused activity was not what had previously been discussed at the partnership. EB agreed that there had been a break of process due to timing, but the revised plan for the project had been agreed at the WBC steering group and senior leadership team.

6 Updates on Warrington Youth Zone proposals

TS gave verbal updates on recent WYZ proposals.

Sensory Garden – this has been approved.

Rear and Side Clear Up – the WBC steering group had been concerned about poor drainage, not just the litter and generally poor appearance of the areas in question, and had requested a feasibility study to look at possible solutions and then an updated proposal.

Greenwood Crescent – this had not been supported. The WBC steering group had a number of concerns about the proposal, including ongoing running costs after UKSPF funding expires; a core service, with UKSPF funding, is already in place; wanting to be inclusive rather than opening a new facility just for specific groups; and the potential for anti-social behaviour, vandalism etc if the building is reopened but not staffed all the time.

Arts for All – although both the WBC steering group and this partnership do value the idea of public artworks, some investigation was needed to ensure that this proposal would not duplicate what was already happening, and being funded, through other sources. For example, AM confirmed that work around the Winwick Street / Central Station area, including public artwork, was due to start shortly. That is funded through the BID, Police and Crime Commissioner, and Culture Warrington,

TS suggested that a working group should be established to come forward with one joined-up proposal. EB agreed – there is a lot to take into consideration, e.g. planning permission, licensing, quality etc.

AM would be happy for the group to be led by the BID but pointed out that it only focuses on the Town Centre, whereas there might be proposals for other areas.

Bus Interchange – this proposal had not been supported, as discussed previously.

7 New Project Proposal (Supported by WBC Steering Group)

Community Projects at Warrington Town Hall

Small scale projects (Christmas at the Town Hall & Heritage Gift Shop and Gift Shop/Waiting Room) had previously been supported. But it had been thought that the proposal to change the existing Tea Room into a proper Tea Room with smaller tables allowing it to be open to the public and staff for light lunches and snacks, teas and coffees on a regular basis, would not be achievable by March 2025, given the nature of the work involved and the procedures needed regarding a Grade 1 listed building.

However, it is now known that the work needed at this stage is more decorative than structural, and so it can be done.

TS confirmed that there would be sufficient funding from the previously approved allocations for Sports Facilities and Events, which had included an allocation for the charity cricket match held at the Town Hall, or Warrington Town Hall Heritage improvements.

The group supported the proposal. DT stressed that the Town Hall is the town's asset.

8 New Proposals Expected

TS described two expected proposals:

Improvements to Sports Facilities

LiveWire are doing well with their current project, in terms of achieving outputs and spend targets. They have a range of 12 or 13 "mini projects" with a total allocation of £125k. TS had asked them to submit ideas for what they could do if there was additional funding available.

Walton Lea "The Orb"

This would be a training facility on site, with a cost of c. £10k.

WBC's building maintenance programme

TS also described plans to mitigate potential underspend, as described earlier. WBC's building maintenance programme is in a significant overspend position. However, a lot of their work aligns with UKSPF eligibility

- the local authority does not have a statutory duty to do this work
- it is not fully funded by other sources (clearly, as WBC does not have sufficient budget to do all the work on what is a long list)
- it addresses *Number of amenities/facilities supported/created or improved*
- it addresses *Number of Tourism, Culture or heritage assets created or improved*
- it addresses *Number of neighbourhood improvements undertaken*

TS has asked them to prioritise those works with the most public facing impact, e.g. where a building would have to close or current activity could not be continued. Known examples include boilers at the sensory centre in Woolston and Padgate library, lighting at the entrance to Orford Park, and many more on their list.

The group felt that this was a sensible way of addressing the financial position.

DT asked if we could also look at community-owned facilities. NG has asked about possibilities through her networks, but the problem has been trying to find proposals with everything in place ready to complete by March 2025.

9 Next Steps

Continue to watch for any updates about the UKSPF 2025/26 extension
Continue regular monitoring and support for projects up to 2024/25 outturn
Process new project proposals
Evaluation of current programme (waiting for details of 2025/26 to help shape the focus)

10 Any Other Business

None

11 Schedule of Future Meetings

Thurs 5th Dec 2024, 9:30 – 11:00

Thurs 2nd Jan 2025, 9:30 – 11:00 (this one will be rescheduled)

Warrington UKSPF Steering Group**28th Nov 2024****In Attendance:**

Lynton Green (LG)	Chair
Amanda Juggins (AJ)	Representative – Business Intelligence and Change
Ian Brackenbury (IB)	Representative – Environment and Transport
Eleanor Blackburn (EB)	Representative – Growth
Kerry Hall (KH)	Representative – Growth
Kate Guise (KG)	Representative – Education and Community Services
Sally McGrail (SMcG)	Representative – Adult Social Care
Sharon Cooper (SC)	Representative – Children’s Social Care
Tim Smith (TS)	Funding and Skills Manager
Gail Thomas (GT)	Programme and Projects Support Officer

Apologies:

Cathy Fitzgerald (CF)	Representative – Public Health
Mike Bridges (MB)	Representative – Public Health

1 Welcome and Introductions

LG welcomed everybody to the meeting.

2 Notes and Actions from Previous Meeting

The notes and actions of the previous meeting, held on 24th Oct 2024, were accepted as a correct record.

TS gave some updates from last time:

W&VR College – still awaiting details for doing some more Multiply work within UKSPF contract; the college has had a recent audit then Ofsted inspection, hence the delay.

WYZ – Arts for All – potential duplication with Winwick St / Central Station – funded through BID, PCC, Culture Warrington; agreed – need a working group to get a joined up proposal.

Town Centre signage – BID are discussing with WBC – can probably be funded through existing signage / street furniture project.

3 UKSPF Extension 2025/26

The recent budget statement, and a letter from the Deputy Prime Minister to Council Leaders had said that.....

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) will be extended to 2025-26.

However, this will be at a lower level of £900 million.

Ringfenced funding for adult numeracy through the Multiply programme will end.

Government will update the UKSPF prospectus to make this explicit and confirm funding allocations as soon as possible.

TS summarised that:

- We know that there will be a UKSPF programme in 2025/26, albeit at a reduced level
- That £900m figure is 68% of the 2024/25 national allocation of £1.31bn
- We do not yet know what Warrington's allocation will be
- We do not yet know if all of the current wide range of eligible activities will be included
- We do not yet know if we will be allowed to carry forward any underspend into 2025/26 (so we continue to work on the principle that there will be a "hard close" at end of March 2025)
- We do know that there will not be a Multiply programme in 2025/26 (although we could fund that activity through UKSPF if we choose to)

4 UKSPF Position (Nov 2024)

TS presented a spreadsheet showing the updated financial position to Nov 2024. Most projects had given updated forecasts of their expected lifetime spend. The overall position now looks to be c. £230k underspend expected at end of March 2025. However, TS pointed out that it would mean moving from £2.2m total spend at Sept 2024 to £6.2m total spend in the final 6 months of the programme, so the final underspend position could probably be expected to increase.

EB suggested that we need to have a clear cut-off date for final project proposals, particularly external ones due to timescales for procurement, contracting etc. It was agreed to close the programme to new proposals at the end of Dec 2024.

Action (TS) Inform the Local Partnership about the closure to new proposals.

Action (TS, GT) Work up a timeline for final invoicing, claims etc at lifetime end (Mar 2025).

5 Community Projects at Warrington Town Hall

Small scale projects (Christmas at the Town Hall & Heritage Gift Shop and Gift Shop/Waiting Room) had previously been supported. But it had been thought that the proposal to change the existing Tea Room into a proper Tea Room with smaller tables allowing it to be open to the public and staff for light lunches and snacks, teas and coffees on a regular basis, would not be achievable by March 2025, given the nature of the work involved and the procedures needed regarding a Grade 1 listed building.

However, it is now known that the work needed at this stage is more decorative than structural, and so it can be done.

TS confirmed that there would be sufficient funding from the previously approved allocations for Sports Facilities and Events, which had included an allocation for the charity cricket match held at the Town Hall, or Warrington Town Hall Heritage improvements.

The group supported the proposal.

6 New Project Proposals

Walton Lea Garden Orb

Walton Lea Partnership (WLP) is a charity supporting adults with learning disabilities, providing the development of new skills within woodwork, cycle maintenance, food hygiene and horticulture as well as traditional arts and crafts and retail experience. The aim is to equip learners with skills and confidence to join the workforce in paid employment, and/or to support them into independent living arrangements.

The proposal is to purchase and instal a “Garden Orb”. This is a non-permanent feature providing flexible space for seven adults around a table. It requires no electricity but operates via a rechargeable battery for the light and is fully glazed, offering 360 degree views and rotates to maximise or minimise sun rays, allowing year-round usage. WBC Estates have confirmed that planning permission is not required as it is not permanent and can be removed from the site.

SMcG confirmed that WBC commissions Walton Lea and that the proposal would enhance the facility for learners.

LG asked for a breakdown of the revenue costs in the proposal (£2,400 out of £9,400) and how they would continue the activity after the UKSPF funding expires.

The group supported the proposal

Improvements to Sports Facilities

LiveWire are doing well with their current project, in terms of achieving outputs and spend targets. They have a range of 12 or 13 “mini projects”, e.g. swimming galas, conversion to netball courts, repairs to squash court flooring etc, with a total allocation of £125k. TS had asked them to submit ideas for what they could do if there was additional funding available.

This new proposal is for

Over 40s Walking Sports league project

Weekly sessions of walking sports: rugby, football, basketball, netball, handball.

Virtual Option for partner clubs

Use of studios across sites outside of peak hours for partner clubs, specifically the adult teams. A big majority of these teams use other venues or plan additional fitness training before their sports

training sessions. The plan is to add value to their existing bookings by offering team building fitness sessions utilising LiveWire studios when they are empty.

TS explained that we can probably find the money from underspend in the previously approved allocations for Sports Facilities and Events, as the amount intended for the Tour of Britain cycling and the charity cricket match held at the Town Hall had not been fully spent.

The group supported the proposal.

7 Contingency to Mitigate Underspend

WBC building maintenance programme

TS described a way of mitigating potential underspend, as described earlier. WBC's building maintenance programme is in a significant overspend position. However, a lot of their work aligns with UKSPF eligibility

- the local authority does not have a statutory duty to do this work
- it is not fully funded by other sources (clearly, as WBC does not have sufficient budget to do all the work on what is a long list)
- it addresses *Number of amenities/facilities supported/created or improved*
- it addresses *Number of Tourism, Culture or heritage assets created or improved*
- it addresses *Number of neighbourhood improvements undertaken*

TS has asked them to prioritise those works with the most public facing impact, e.g. where a building would have to close or current activity could not be continued. Known examples include new boilers at the sensory centre in Woolston and Padgate library, lighting at the entrance to Orford Park, and many more on their list.

IB agreed that this would be a good way of mopping up any underspend – good to do the prep work now.

LG suggested that we cut off from any new project proposals, internal or external, from the end of Dec 2024, to prioritise this funding plan. Although the principal could also be applied to other areas of Council spend, LG favoured keeping this option all in one area to keep it manageable.

The group supported this way of working and plan to use up any potential underspend.

- Action (TS) Get list from S Brown of WBC Building Maintenance Programme jobs in 2024/25, prioritised in terms of public facing impact and fit with UKSPF definitions.
- Action (TS, GT) Report back updated spend position after Oct-Dec monitoring returns.
- Action (TS, GT, S Brown) (Probably in Feb/Mar) Attribute identified UKSPF underspend to appropriate WBC Building Maintenance Programme jobs using above rationale.

8 Next Steps

Continue to watch for any updates about the UKSPF 2025/26 extension
Quarterly monitoring Oct-Dec 2024

Process new project proposals

Evaluation of current programme (waiting for details of 2025/26 to help shape the focus)

9 Any Other Business

SC asked about the possibility of funding for improvements to the gardens and driveways at The Lighthouse. She has had an initial quote of £65k, but it would probably need to go on The Chest and is therefore not likely to be completed by end of March 2025.

LG and TS suggested that this might be a proposal for the 2025/26 extension year, albeit with a caveat that we do not yet know the full criteria for next year's programme.

10 Date of Next Meeting

Thurs 16th Jan 2025, 15:00 – 16:30

WARRINGTON TOWN BOARD – PROGRAMME BRIEFING

Levelling Up Fund – Warrington North

Introduction

Warrington Borough Council submitted a bid to the Levelling Up Fund in 2022 for the Warrington North package of projects including:

- Burtonwood – upgrades to community buildings including Burtonwood Community Centre and Gorse Lane Pavilion, and delivery of an active travel route connecting between Clay Lane and Green Jones Brow.
- Winwick – active route alongside the A49 connecting between Rectory Lane and the Cromwell Avenue Roundabout.
- Culcheth – active travel route from New Hall Lane linking into wider improvements over Junction 11 of the M62 and towards Birchwood.

The package totals £10.476m comprised of £9.432m LUF grant funding and a £1.045m local contribution.

In February 2024 WBC went through a validation process for the bid, with central government indicating the package of projects will be funded. Subsequently the Memorandum of Understanding was not countersigned by central government and initial work on the projects was paused.

Progress Update

The government confirmed £9.432m grant funding for the LUF Warrington North projects as part of the 2024 Autumn spending review and countersigned the MoU in November 2024.

Since funding was confirmed to WBC by MHCLG on the 15th November 2024, the programme management team has remobilised, and the various project teams have begun mobilisation. Through this process the previous programme has been reviewed to identify the impact on timescales resulting from pausing the projects, and to reforecast timescales and expenditure. As part of this reforecasting process all schemes are projected to be constructed by Q2 2027-28.

Through the mobilisation process a significant cost pressure of £1.5m has been identified including the impact of inflation. This has been calculated through preliminary work since WBC received the signed MoU on the 15th November and further more detailed analysis is being undertaken.

This information on programme and cost pressures has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to seek acceptance of the revised programme timescales and to seek further conversations regarding the potential to secure additional grant funds.

WBC is confident that core commitments made in the original bid in 2022 can be met within the present funding envelope. However, should further funding not be available from MHCLG to cover this gap, it may be necessary to remove certain elements of project scope, in addition to conducting value engineering.

Next Steps

Key next steps to fully mobilise the project teams and conduct early critical tasks include:

- Convene project meetings with delivery partners to align priorities, roles and responsibilities.
- Production of plans and specifications for surveys including: initial vegetation clearance; preliminary ecological surveys and assessment; topographical surveys; and traffic surveys.



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- Update and implement revised plan aligned with the updated timelines and address any immediate risks identified during the review process.
- Re-profile the project budgets to reflect the adjusted timelines and ensure funding allocation supports delivery priorities.
- Supplier identification and design coordination to refine project scope/specifications and engage supply chain.
- Engage with community stakeholders to provide updates on project progress to provide awareness, including producing a website to provide key information on the projects.